

"BETTER AND CLEANER CITY," IS NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Dr. Wilmer Krusen Favors in a General Way All the Great Reforms and Improvements Proposed

FOR THE NEW BLOCKLEY

Supports Byberry Expansions, New Housing Law and Medical Inspection in Schools

This is the fourth in a series of interviews with the new Director selected by Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith, concerning their plans for the administration of their departments.

The whole civic, professional and political force of Philadelphia will be lined up by Dr. Wilmer Krusen and thrust into the movement for bettering the health of the city when he assumes charge in January of the Department of Public Health and Charities, to the directorship of which he has been appointed by Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith.

Of all the appointments made so far to the cabinet by the Mayor-elect, only that of Doctor Krusen is looked upon as of a personal nature. For years Mr. Smith and the noted Philadelphia surgeon have been intimate friends. They are absolutely in accord as to the health and charities policy. Politicians of all beliefs also are in favor of the progressive measures for this department, and the medical profession is a unit for all the reforms suggested or planned.

HIS HEART IN HIS TASK. Since his appointment, Doctor Krusen has been the recipient of scores of letters from all parts of the state, from doctors and surgeons, from politicians and office-holders, congratulating him upon the opportunity for making Philadelphia one of the most healthful cities in the United States. That his heart is in his work ahead of him is obvious. His friends say he feels it his duty to devote the next few years to the interests of the city.

Two of the things in which Doctor Krusen is most deeply interested are housing and the maintenance of Philadelphia's position as a medical center. The \$2,000,000 provided in the new Byberry expansion for new sewers will make it possible to expedite the enforcement of the new housing act, but until every street in the city is provided with a sewer, Doctor Krusen believes it will be a real problem to make the act really effective.

WILL ENFORCE THE LAW. "To enforce this law without hardship to property owners, and yet with due regard to the health of the community," he says, "will require sane judgment. The law is to be enforced, however, in its every provision. Every one knows that the better housing conditions will prevent disease, but there is an admirable lighting provision for tenement houses in the act that, properly enforced, should likewise prevent crime. The development of the new system of sewers will make the housing reforms more easily accomplished, and, therefore, I will do all in my power to hasten the work on the system."

Director Krusen will go into office without any misunderstanding of the unfortunate conditions at Blockley. He will have the support of the whole administration, including Councils, in remedying them. "Blockley is overcrowded in all departments," he says. "The city owns 500 acres at Byberry. Speedy steps should be taken to remove the indigent to Byberry. A new insane hospital should be built along modern lines. A new modern, well-equipped mental hospital should be erected at the present site of Blockley or some other convenient site. All this will take time. Little or nothing can be done at Blockley until a home is made for the indigent, and, therefore, the buildings at Byberry will be a prime necessity."

WILL SEEK CORDIAL RELATIONS. Director Krusen is interested in the maintenance of cordial relations between the Department of Health and Charities and the general practitioner, as their work frequently overlaps. He wants to foster the best of feeling between the two and the continuance of the crusade of education for the laity to establish firmly in the mind of every citizen that health-



DR. WILMER KRUSEN

rules are made for the good of the greatest number. "I am also extremely anxious to cooperate with the committee appointed by the Pennsylvania State Medical Society," said Doctor Krusen, "to help Philadelphia maintain her prestige as a medical teaching center. We have six medical schools in this city. In former years Philadelphia was the only great medical center in the United States, but other cities, such as Chicago, New York and Baltimore, have been advancing in this respect recently. Philadelphia probably has published a larger number of medical volumes than any other city. Her teachers have always been authors and investigators, and there is every reason to believe that under present conditions, her proud position can be maintained."

CURES OF THE INSANE. Doctor Krusen does not believe that the State will take over the insane of cities of the first class. He believes the city should make adequate provision for this work. In this connection he points out that the records of private institutions show a remarkable percentage of cures. Such asylums are rarely overcrowded. At Blockley, under present conditions, it is impossible to give every patient the individual care necessary to bring about a cure.

The new director also is in favor of a continuance of the food and milk inspection methods of the department. He points out that there no longer is any question as to the value of these inspections to the public health, and he, therefore, is determined to keep up the standards.

A movement that has been brought up tentatively several times in this city for the public convenience will be fostered by Doctor Krusen. It is for the establishment of public comfort stations in various parts of the city, such as are a feature of nearly all European cities.

Among the letters of congratulation received by the new director is one from a noted physician who strongly advocates this movement. Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, State Commissioner of Health, was one of the first to congratulate Doctor Krusen. He believes that under the Smith administration the "greatest hospital in the country" is to be built. This letter and others show that the appointment of Doctor Krusen met with enthusiastic approval everywhere. He will not lack support in anything he may undertake for the benefit of the public health.

Like the other members of the new cabinet, Doctor Krusen is deeply impressed with the opportunities afforded the new administration to make a wonderful record.

MAN ACCUSED OF FORGERY

Letter Omitted From Alleged Victim's Name Leads to Discovery

James Staffo, of 412 South 8th street, was held in \$1000 bail for court by Magistrate Imber at the 3d and Christian streets police station today, accused of forgery and attempting to pass bogus checks.

Two checks found in Staffo's possession, one for \$125 and the other for \$20, drawn on the order of Joseph Fryer, of 911 South 8th street, and bearing the signature of Abraham Rudowitz, a produce dealer of 311 South 23d street, were declared to be forgeries.

According to the police, Staffo went to the store of Harry Bernstein, at 531 Balmbridge street, yesterday, and purchased a suit from Harry Sacka, a salesman, tendering the \$125 check in payment. According to Sacka, Staffo asked him to deliver the suit and the change to a boy whom he would send and left the store.

Sacka went to the Third National Bank to get the check cashed, but the cashier held it up because the "o" in Rudowitz's name was missing. While they were checking Rudowitz's book in and declared the check was a forgery.

War Boosts Window Glass Trade

Manufacturers of window glass say this is the best season in the history of the trade. Imports in that line have practically ceased because of the war, and this has encouraged the use of domestic glass. In the first nine months of this year only 37,183 boxes were imported, as compared with 54,517 for the same period the previous year.

FRANCE TO PLACE BIG ORDERS FOR MACHINERY

Members of Trade Commission Mayor's Guests at Banquet. Return in January

Members of the French Trade Commission will leave today for the West, but they said they were anxious for January to come, when they will return here. Their stay, they said, here had been as enjoyable as it was valuable. One of the especially enjoyable features was the dinner Mayor Blankenburg gave to them last night. At that dinner they had the opportunity to meet many of the city's leading men.

The honored guests, the visitors from France were: Maurice Damour, M. Chouffour, L. Vibien and M. E. D'Assale-Thirlez. Richard L. Austin, N. D. Kelly, Le H. Rimard, David H. Kirachbaum, Herman Loh, W. C. Harbo, H. K. Mulford, Charles J. Cohen, Coleman Sellers, Jr., J. S. Stebbins, Horace W. Caster, Mayor-elect Smith, Cyrus H. Se. Curtis, Ernest P. Trig, Samuel M. Curson, John M. Walton, Samuel S. Fels, Lyron D. Ross, Daniel Whitney, Stanley G. Flegg, Jr., Exc Governor Stuart, Nathan T. Falwell, George W. Norris, Henry S. Gross, and Joseph T. Jackson.

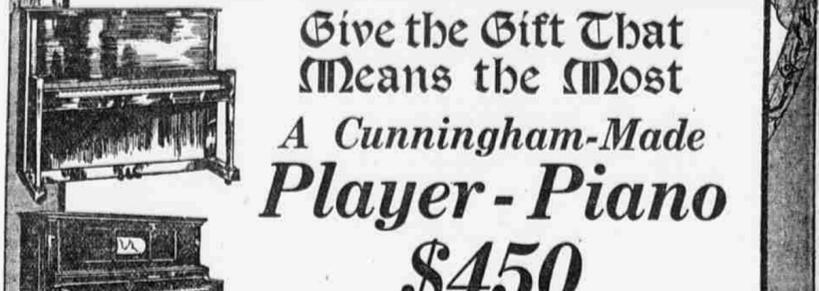
Mr. Damour, the spokesman for his party, said there would be an industrial awakening in France after the war, and that they were getting ready to use new machinery. Philadelphia, he said, was considered in France to be the greatest textile centre in the world, and it was the textile question which was their chief interest in this city. He estimated that his country would spend \$150,000,000 on machinery within a few months. Speeches were also made by the Mayor, Mr. Stotesbury, Mr. Folwell, Mayor-elect Smith, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Austin and Mr. Kelly.

Small Fire in Carpet Mill

Fire, believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, damaged the four-story carpet mill of the Philadelphia Carpet Company, 6th street and Columbia avenue, early today. The fire was discovered by the night watchman, Patrick Lynch, who sounded an alarm. The concern is owned by Phillip Doerr & Sons. Loss is estimated at between \$50 and \$100.

Frienders Tender Dinner to Dr. Krusen

A dinner was tendered last night to Dr. Wilmer Krusen, who will be the next Director of Public Health and Charities, by his friends at the home of Dr. Frank C. Hammond, 331 North Broad street. Mayor-elect Smith and Harry W. Mace, who will be assistant director, were there. Other guests were Judge John W. Patterson, John C. Eckel, S. M. Christian, Jr., Dr. Geo. S. Dorsett, Cornelius Haggerty, Jr., Henry Burk, Jr., Dr. Clinton Franklin and Dr. Paul J. Fontana.



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